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PERU: NATURE OF SHINING PATH PHENOMENON

Lima QUEHACER in Spanish Aug-Sep 86 pp 28-57

[Series of articles in bimonthly review of DESCO (Center for Development Studies and Promotion)]

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WHO'S WHO IN THE BRAZILIAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jan 87 Special Supplement, pp B1-B8

[Text] Almost a third of the 559 federal deputies and senators who will form the Constituent Congress which will be convened on 1 February could be classified as centrist; this percentage of congressmen, together with their near relatives (Center Right and Center Left), gives an overpowering centrist character to the future parliament.

In all, 438 deputies and senators (or 78.3 percent of the congressmen) belong to these broad political categories; this also indicates a high degree of indefinition, which is, incidentally, quite appropriate to a country which traditionally has little ideological homogeneity.

In any case, the forces located at the extremes of the ideological range (Left and Right) are fairly isolated. The Left will have only 52 delegates, or 9.3 percent of the total. The Right will have 69, or 12.3 percent.

In the Center, the subdivisions are as follows: the Center Right will be represented by 131 legislators (23.4 percent); the Center, strictly speaking, by 181 (32.3 percent); and the Center Left by 126 legislators (22.5 percent).

The classification adopted by FOLHA clearly has an inevitable measure of subjectivity, resulting particularly from the fact that most of the politicians ascribed a political label to themselves, which was not always the one which the public would generally apply to them. Moreover, the constant changes in parties and even in positions on the great national political issues make it difficult to arrive at a stricter classification. In any event, FOLHA preferred to run the risk of an imperfect classification of the congressmen by letting them say for themselves what label they think fits them.

Benches

The dominance of the Center was more or less predictable; however, now that the complete list of the victors in the 15 November elections is available, it is somewhat surprising to find that the Left is not so weak--if not in number, at least in quality--as had been imagined.

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